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Marvin Trembley, businessman-citizen, dies



Marvin Trembley
Longtime businessman

Was known for his kindness and generosity to all

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BELEN

When Marvin Elmer Trembley moved to Belen in 1947, his dream was to establish his own jewelry store. His wish lasted for more than 35 years with Trembley's Jewelry.

Trembley, a longtime businessman and community leader, died on Friday — three months shy of his 90th birthday. He was known as a kind and generous man and someone who was devoted to helping his community in any way he could.

Trembley and his late wife, Emma, moved to Belen in 1947, two years after they were married. He was a railroad watch inspector for the Santa Fe Railway at the time and had heard that a man in Belen was considering selling his jewelry business. The rest was history.

His youngest daughter, Lynn Sanchez, said her father always referred to the jewelry business as the "happiest business" to be in. In one of Trembley's many writings, he wrote "The excitement of helping customers select a nice piece of jewelry for a special event is always a happy time — birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas,

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Trembley: Was dedicated to Rotary Club, serving as governor

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graduation, a new baby, special achievements and on and on.

"It will always be a source of great pleasure to the Trembleys to know that many of the remembrances of such happy occasions will someday be handed down from generation to generation. Yes, the jewelry business is the happy business," Marvin wrote.

"We all worked there at some point," Sanchez remembered of the jewelry store and working with her father. "If we were old enough to wrap a package, we knew that our Christmas vacation was going to be wrapping jewelry boxes."

Not only was Trembley a successful businessman, but he was also a community leader. He was past-president of the Belen Rotary Club, and when he retired from the jewelry business, he became the district governor of Rotary International — a position his family said that he took very seriously. He was also past president and a longtime member of the Belen Chamber of Commerce, a member of the United States Selective Service and past president of the New Mexico Retail Jewelers Association.

Along with his business ties in the community, he was also very active in his church. Trembley was the Sunday school superintendent of the Belen Federated Church, which later became the First Presbyterian Church. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and was a former Boy Scout.

Jeff Trembley, the youngest of the four children, said along with his father's dedication to the jewelry store and Rotary, his dad's legacy will be how he devoted his life to his wife, Emma, after she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease before her death in 2003. The couple had been married for 58 years.



Submitted photo

MARVIN AND EMMY TREMBLEY owned Trembley's Jewelry in Belen for 35 years. The couple was married for 58 years before her passing in 2003.

"I always get people coming up to me telling me how my dad was so good to my mom," Jeff said. "They would say that they could see the love he had for my mom in his eyes. He was always with her, and it was hard, but he handled it."

Laura Layton, the Trembleys' oldest daughter, said while her father didn't have a lot of time outside of the jewelry store, working six days a week, he always made time to spend with his family.

"Sunday was his only day off and our mornings, until noon, were in church," Layton said. "I remember several times, maybe to give Mom a break, he would take the kids in the afternoons. We would go to Gran Quivira and hit some ruins. We did that several times."

"That was the only time that he had time to work on the yard," Sanchez remembered. "But he was always involved with us kids. He would also take us on picnics a lot on Sunday afternoons."

Layton said her father taught his children values by example. She said when she saw how he operated, how he treated people, she realized that it was the right thing to do.

Education was also very important to both Marvin and Emma. Jeff said attendance was very important to the family.

"That's just how we were raised," he said. "I think we all had almost perfect attendance. We just didn't question it."

While Marvin Trembley was dedicated to his work and to his community, he was a devoted

husband and father. Each of his children told stories about how he took time out of his busy schedule to share quality one-on-one time with them.

"He drove us to school every morning," Layton said. "I don't know about the other kids, but I remember he took me."

"I also remember that he would take me to the dentist, and I thought that it was just a big deal that he would take time off work to take me to the dentist, all the way in Albuquerque."

Lynn said he remembered that she would, at times, walk to the jewelry store during lunch time while in junior high school and her father would give her 35 cents.

"I would go to Dairy Queen — a quarter for a hamburger

and 10 cents for a Coke," she said.

Jeff said he too remembers a time when his father gave him his undivided attention.

"With four kids, it's hard to spread it," Jeff said. "I remember, I must have been about 5 or 6, and I go to the store. He said 'You want to do something special?' Of course I said 'yes.'"

"We get into the car and we drive to Los Chavez. I didn't know where we were going, but we get out and we went to The Owl — a steakhouse," he remembered. "We go in, and my dad knew the guy, and my dad goes, 'I brought my son to eat.' We sit there, he and I alone, and we ate. I still remember it and I knew that he wanted to, for whatever reason, connect."

Layton said her father's commitment to Belen and to his customers began even before he opened the jewelry store. She said when Marvin and Emma arrived in town, they didn't have a dime to their name.

"He was raising his family and he was renting this little house, and he opened up his jewelry store," Layton said. "Mr. L.C. Becker gave him a loan from the bank, and he felt very loyal to Mr. Becker for that. He always thought 'Why should he give me a loan — he just trusted me.'"

"I think he learned a lot from that example, and he did that a lot for his customers. He didn't become a rich man, but he was wealthy in so many other ways, and luckily, he shared that wealth with all of us and with most people he knew."

Marvin Trembley is survived by his four children, Randy Trembley, Laura Layton, Lynn Sanchez and Jeff Trembley. A memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 10, at the First Presbyterian Church in Rio Communities. Interment will follow at Terrace

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Trembley

Marvin Elmer Trembly

1919-2009

Marvin Elmer Trembly, was born on Sept. 11, 1919, in Chanute, Kan. He passed away on June 5.

He was a graduate of Chanute High School, Chanute Junior College, Kansas State University and Bradley Tech School of Watch Making. Marvin served from 1942 to 1945 during World War II in North Africa with the United States Air Force.



Marvin and Emmy were married on Aug. 7, 1945, in Wichita, Kan. They moved to Belen in 1947. He was a Railroad Watch Inspector for the Santa Fe Railroad and eventually opened his store, Trembly's Jewelry in Belen. Marvin and Emmy owned and operated Trembly's Jewelry for 35 years.

Marvin was active in the community as past-president and member of the Belen Rotary Club, District Governor of Rotary International; past president and member of the Belen Chamber of Commerce; served Valencia

County as a member of the United States Selective Service from 1961 to 1976; a member and Sunday school superintendent of the Belen Federated Church which later became the First Presbyterian Church; member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 2387; former Boy Scout Master; and a member and past president of the New Mexico Retail Jewelers Association.

Marvin was recognized as a Belen Citizen of the Year and awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship for his dedication to Rotary International.

He was known throughout the Rio Grande Valley for his integrity as a watchmaker and jeweler. Marvin often said that the jewelry business was a happy business because the reward of helping customers select a special item for an event was always a happy time. He took great pride in knowing that many of the remembrances of weddings, birthday, anniversaries, Christmases, graduations, etc. came from Trembly's Jewelry. Over the years, many stories were told to him explaining how a special jewelry item or watch purchased at Trembly's had been handed down from generation to generation. He loved these stories. He truly lived a happy life in a happy business.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Mac and Maude Trembly; his loving wife of 58 years, Emma Randall Trembly; sister, Vetrica VanHavermat, and two brothers, Carl and Arch Trembly.

Marvin is survived by his four children, Randy Trembly and wife, Debbie, of Houston, Texas, Laura Layton and husband, John, of Pocono Manor, Pa., Lynn Sanchez and husband, Michael, of Belen and Jeff Trembly of Belen; his grandchildren, Burt Trembly and wife, Christina, Brett Trembly, Josh, Nolan and Katrina Sanchez, Mathew, Katie and Lizzie Trembly, Susan Layton and Gwen Korkolis; one brother, Bill Trembly and wife, Pat, of Angel Fire; three sisters-in-law, Ann Trembly, Ruby Randall Birss and Leora Trembly. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank all the caregivers that made Marvin's last few years comfortable at Beehive Assisted Living in Los Lunas.

Services will be held on Wednesday, June 10, at the First Presbyterian Church in Rio Communities. Family visitation will be from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. The memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Interment will follow at Terrace Grove Cemetery in Belen. Urnbearer will be his brother,

Bill Trembly. Honorary urnbearers will be all of his grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to the Alzheimer's Association New Mexico Chapter, 9500 Montgomery Blvd., Albuquerque 87111.

Sign Marvin's online register book at www.romerofuneralhomenm.com. Romero Funeral Home, 609 N. Main St., Belen.

Valencia County News-Bulletin

OPINION

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2009

OUR VIEW

SAYING GOODBYE TO A SUCCESSFUL MAN

Anyone who knew Marvin Trembly will remember the truly sweet smile he turned on the world. He was unassuming, kindly, the sort of person who always made you feel as if you were important to him. He never seemed in a rush; he always seemed to have time to stop and talk. He had the sort of memory that could recall things you'd told him a couple of years earlier; he'd ask for an update with a look on his face that said that he was truly listening.

That ability to listen to people is a unique and fine characteristic. It is no wonder that he was such a success in business and as a community leader. Whether he was leading the Belen Chamber of Commerce or the Rotary Club that he seemed to truly love, Mr. Trembly was an example of the community-minded sort of person who is ever rarer in

our plugged-in, stay-at-home-on-the-computer society.

Anyone who walked in to Trembly Jewelry knew that the service they would receive would be excellent, whether they were having a watch repaired or buying an engagement and wedding ring set. While Mr. Trembly might have had a backlog of repairs in the back of the store, but he never rushed anyone making a purchase. When you were in his store, he had all the time in the world for you. And that is the way that businesses once operated — you were assumed to be both a customer and a friend.

Mr. Trembly arrived in Belen from the Midwest and this community was a better place because of it. How many of us can make the same claim? And, even better, if you had said something along that line to Mr. Trembly, it would have embarrassed him. He was modest, a team player.

His whole community is saddened at the loss of this extraordinary man. We wish his family and his friends solace in their time of grief, but we believe that they can be proud that this man had a place in their lives.

There are people we should all strive to pattern ourselves after. Marvin Trembly was one of those individuals.

He — and all of his sort that kept our communities together — will be missed.

Rest well, Mr. Trembly. Your job was well done.

